What is claimed is:

1.   1.   A method comprising:

2.   comparing a metric against a threshold; and

3.   setting a timer to delay a roaming attempt by a wireless network client.

1.   2.   The method of claim 1 wherein the metric comprises a received signal

2.   strength indicator.

1.   3.   The method of claim 1 wherein the metric comprises a current data rate.

1.   4.   The method of claim 1 wherein the metric comprises a number of packet

2.   retries.

1.   5.   The method of claim 1 further comprising comparing a plurality of metrics

2.   against a plurality of thresholds, and setting the timer in response.

1.   6.   The method of claim 1 wherein the metric comprises a received signal

2.   strength indicator, and the threshold is dependent on the current data rate.

1.   7.   A method comprising setting a timer to one of a plurality of values to delay a

2.   roaming attempt by a mobile station in a wireless network, wherein the mobile

3.   station attempts to roam after the timer expires.

1.   8.   The method of claim 7 wherein setting a timer comprises comparing at least

2.   one metric to at least one threshold, and setting the timer in response.

1.   9.   The method of claim 7 wherein the value to which the timer is set is

2.   influenced by a perceived quality of a current association.

1   10.   The method of claim 9 wherein when the perceived quality of the current
2   association is relatively low, the timer is set to a value that is relatively low.

1   11.   The method of claim 9 wherein when the perceived quality of the current
2   association is relatively high, the timer is set to a value that is relatively high.

1   12.   The method of claim 7 wherein setting a timer comprises setting a hardware
2   timer.

1   13.   The method of claim 7 wherein setting a timer comprises setting a software
2   timer.

1   14.   A method comprising:
2   comparing a first metric to a first threshold and conditionally setting a timer
3   to a first value;
4   comparing a second metric to a second threshold and conditionally setting
5   the timer to a second value; and
6   attempting to roam when the timer expires.

1   15.   The method of claim 14 wherein the first metric comprises a data rate.

1   16.   The method of claim 15 wherein the first threshold corresponds to the lowest
2   possible data rate.

1   17.   The method of claim 15 wherein the second metric comprises a received
2   signal strength indicator.

1   18.   The method of claim 17 wherein the second threshold is dependent on the
2   current data rate.

1   19.   The method of claim 17 wherein the second value is larger than the first

2   value.

1   20.   The method of claim 14 further comprising comparing a percentage of

2   missed beacons to a threshold, and conditionally attempting to roam in response.

1   21.   An apparatus including a medium adapted to hold machine-accessible

2   instructions that when accessed result in a machine performing:

3   comparing a first metric to a first threshold and conditionally setting a timer

4   to a first value;

5   comparing a second metric to a second threshold and conditionally setting

6   the timer to a second value; and

7   attempting to roam when the timer expires.

1   22.   The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the first metric comprises a data rate.

1   23.   The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the first threshold corresponds to the

2   lowest possible data rate.

1   24.   The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the second metric comprises a received

2   signal strength indicator.

1   25.   An apparatus comprising:

2   a radio interface to interact with a wireless network; and

3   a processor coupled to the radio interface, wherein the processor is adapted

4   to set a timer based on a perceived quality of a current association, and further

5   adapted to attempt roaming when the timer expires.

1   26.   The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the timer is at least partially implemented

2   in hardware.

1   27.   The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the timer is at least partially implemented

2   in software.

1   28.   An electronic system comprising:

2   an omni-directional antenna;

3   a radio interface coupled to the omni-directional antenna to interact with a

4   wireless network; and

5   a processor coupled to the radio interface, wherein the processor is adapted

6   to set a timer based on a perceived quality of a current association, and further

7   configured to attempt roaming when the timer expires.

1   29.   The electronic system of claim 28 wherein the timer is at least partially

2   implemented in hardware.

1   30.   The electronic system of claim 28 wherein the timer is at least partially

2   implemented in software.